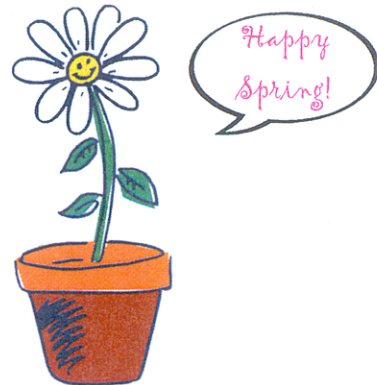


CALLING THE SHOTS

A publication of the Hawaii Immunization Program

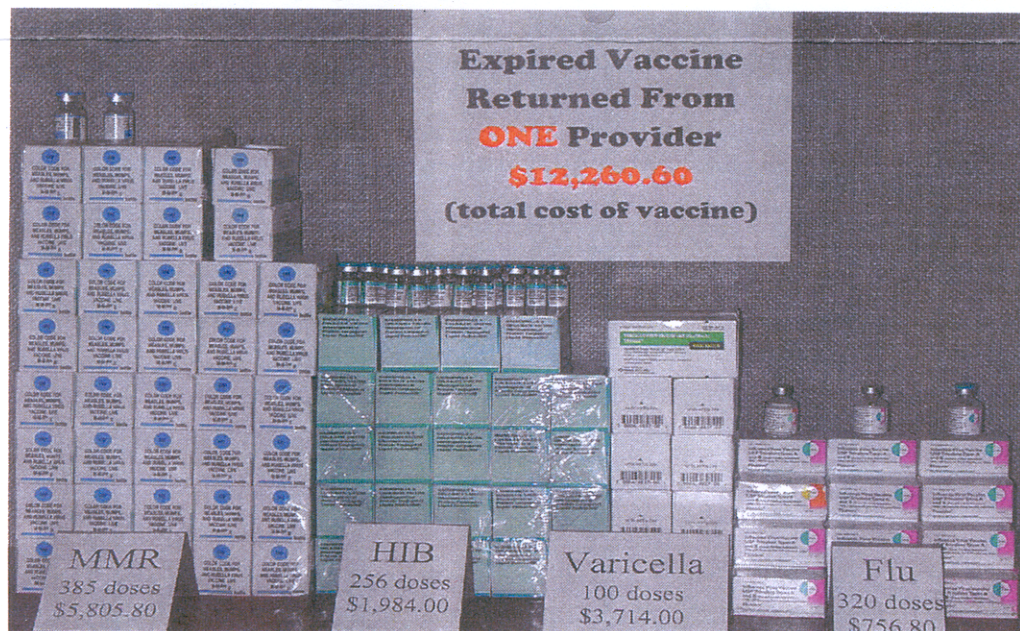
1250 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813 • Questions, Comments? (808) 586-8312

Volume 1, Number 2, Spring 2001



HIP says, "NO MORE WASTED VACCINES!"

PLEASE



These vaccines were returned recently by a VFC provider in one bulk shipment. Sadly, most expired just last year.

by Loriann M. Kanno, Pharm D.

How are your vaccine management skills? Do you rotate your stock of vaccines on a regular basis? Do you check expiration dates of your vaccines, then arrange them so that the shorter dated stock is used first? Do you monitor and log the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer routinely? In an effort to avoid costly returns like the

one pictured, rotation of your vaccine stock, usage of shorter dated vaccines first, and routine monitoring of the refrigerator and freezer should be a common practice for all vaccine providers.

The Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit is available to assist you with any questions you may have regarding your vaccine management plan. We encourage you to call us 586-8329 (neighbor islands 1-800-933-4832) so that we can work together to avoid costly vaccine wastage.

Talk to the Doc...

by Marcia M. Nagao, M.D., M.P.H.

Dear Dr. Nagao,

Can varicella vaccine be used post-exposure to prevent disease?

Answer: YES! The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

recommends varicella vaccine for use in susceptible persons ages 12 months and older following exposure to varicella. Data indicate that varicella vaccine is effective in preventing illness or modifying varicella severity if used within three days, and possibly up to five days, from the time of exposure.

Dr. Nagao welcomes your questions. The easiest way to get in touch with her is via e-mail (mmnagao@mail.health.state.hi.us) or by fax (808-586-8302).

VFC Provider Site Visits...

A Public Health service to health care providers in the VFC program

by Heather Winfield-Smith

What is a VFC provider site visit, you ask? Well, the federal government requires that each state demonstrate that the health care sites enrolled in the VFC program are

- ✓ Following correct VFC procedures (i.e properly screening for VFC eligibility, proper completion of the VAVR, etc.)
- ✓ Storing and handling vaccines properly
- ✓ Using Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

To maximize the usefulness of this office visit, we also offer your staff assistance with measuring and improving your clinic's immunization levels.

Basically, there are four steps that occur during the course of a site visit:

1. We will talk to your office manager or nurse about a number of vaccine practices and policies and go over a short questionnaire
2. We will review vaccine storage and handling practices and policies with the person in charge of this - right at the refrigerator/freezer.
3. We will review 30 patient records to assess the completeness of the VFC eligibility screening. While those charts are out, we can determine how many of the children are up-to-date on their immunizations.
4. We will tell you, and any of your staff that you want present, all of our findings. If we find any areas that could use a little improvement, we'll give you specific, practical advice. A written report will follow within the next two weeks.

These visits are beneficial in that we can help you pinpoint practices that may blunt the effectiveness of your office's immunization program and vaccine management. We can also help you find ways to improve these areas. Your staff will enjoy the confidence of knowing that your practice's immunization services are top quality.

Please Join Us in Welcoming...



Shelley Siegman, R.N.



Heather Winfield-Smith

Shelley, our new VFC nurse, joined the HIP crew on February 1, 2001 in order to take the lead in performing the VFC program requirement compliance portion of the VFC provider site visits. Her favorite hobbies include memorizing vaccine storage and handling requirements as well as adding to her beautiful collection of teacups.

Heather, formerly a clerk-typist with the VFC program, has been promoted to the position of Epidemiological Specialist with the Assessment and Technical Support Unit (ATSU). She will be performing the immunization assessment portion of the VFC provider site visits and is looking forward to meeting all of you! She enjoys memorizing vaccine minimum interval requirements as well as spending time with her two cats (Musubi and Dusty) and her husband, Kelly.



Just a Reminder:

Please note that the expiration date for Prevnar (lots 472-549 and 472-551) distributed through VFC is July 31, 2001. If you will be unable to use this stock before the expiration date, please call VFC at 586-8312 or 1-800-933-4832.

Remember, a single dose of this vaccine costs \$45.99!

For those of you who have not yet submitted your provider profile and enrollment forms please note that they are overdue. You will not be able to order VFC vaccine until we receive your forms.